



NATIONAL SURVEY OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Winter 2010

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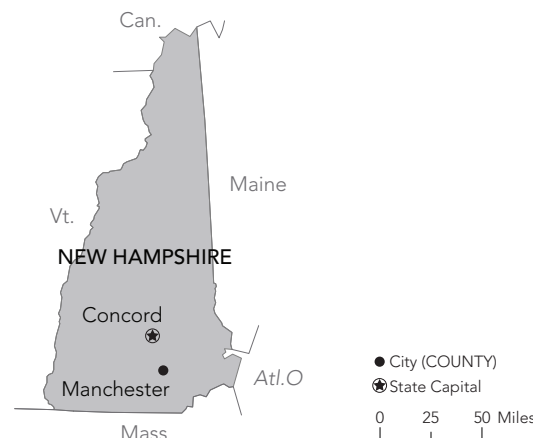
from the INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN, POVERTY, AND HOMELESSNESS

New Hampshire had an estimated 259 homeless families on a single night in 2009, with providers serving nearly twice their bed capacity over the course of the year.¹ This brief summarizes some of the state's public and private initiatives to assist these families.

State Taskforce on Homelessness

Taskforce: The New Hampshire Interagency Council on Homelessness (established by executive order in December 2006) implements the state's ten-year plan to end homelessness.

Governor's Appointee: Maureen Beauregard, President of Families in Transition, has chaired the New Hampshire Interagency Council on Homelessness since September 2010.



Demographic Summary and Overview of Regional Organization

	New Hampshire	Manchester
Persons in homeless families ²	754	192
Number of family shelter beds ³	726	165
Persons in homeless families (per 10,000 population in families) ⁴	16	50
Percent of families in poverty ⁵	7.90%	17.72%
10-Year plan date approved or implemented	2006	2008
10-Year plan target population	All	All
Point-in-time count frequency	Annually	Annually
Point-in-time count managing agency	New Hampshire Bureau of Homeless and Housing Services	New Hampshire Bureau of Homeless and Housing Services
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) managing agency	Community Services Council of New Hampshire	Community Services Council of New Hampshire
Main organizing agency or Continuum of Care (CoC) lead applicant	New Hampshire Bureau of Homeless and Housing Services	Families in Transition

Accessing Services in New Hampshire

New Hampshire's "no wrong door" policy enables homeless and at-risk families and individuals to access assistance by contacting any homeless or low-income service provider throughout the state. Clients may call the New Hampshire Homeless Hotline, funded by the Bureau for Housing and Homeless Services (BHHS), for direct referrals to local shelters and services. BHHS partners with the state's service providers, offering dedicated funding to over 60 organizations including 42 emergency shelters. In addition, six community action agencies throughout the state offer utility, transportation, and health care assistance; eviction and foreclosure intervention; and shelter referrals.⁶ 2010 witnessed a decrease from 2009 in the proportion of homeless households accessing Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (from 18% to 10%), food stamps (from 73% to 55%), local welfare (from 40% to 28%), rental or utility assistance (from 33% to 22%), or emergency shelter (from 71% to 55%).⁷ Separate data are not available for families.

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The *National Survey of Programs and Services for Homeless Families* is an online resource for service providers, advocates, researchers, and public policy makers working in the field of family homelessness. The Web site provides a state-by-state snapshot of the interconnections between governmental and nonprofit work to end family homelessness. For additional information on New Hampshire and other states, visit www.icprwb.org

Helping Homeless Households Attain Housing

The number of families accessing emergency shelters increased by 12% between state fiscal years 2008 and 2009 (from 595 to 670). In 2010, surveyed homeless persons in New Hampshire cited unemployment (24%), inability to meet rental or mortgage payments (23%), and eviction or foreclosure (16%) as the primary reasons for their homelessness. To assist homeless and at-risk families and individuals, the New Hampshire Bureau of Homeless and Housing Services offers the Housing Security Guarantee Program, which distributes vouchers to provide security deposit guarantees for landlords, and the Homeless Housing and Access Revolving Loan Fund, which provides interest-free loans for the first month's rent or security deposit to homeless households. Respectively, these programs assisted 858 and 232 households in state fiscal year 2009. Furthermore, the federal Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program provided a total of \$4,612,322 to ten New Hampshire projects that delivered prevention assistance to 166 households and rapidly re-housed 235 households in federal fiscal year 2010.⁸ Specific data on homeless families served are unavailable.

Serving Homeless and At-risk Families in Manchester

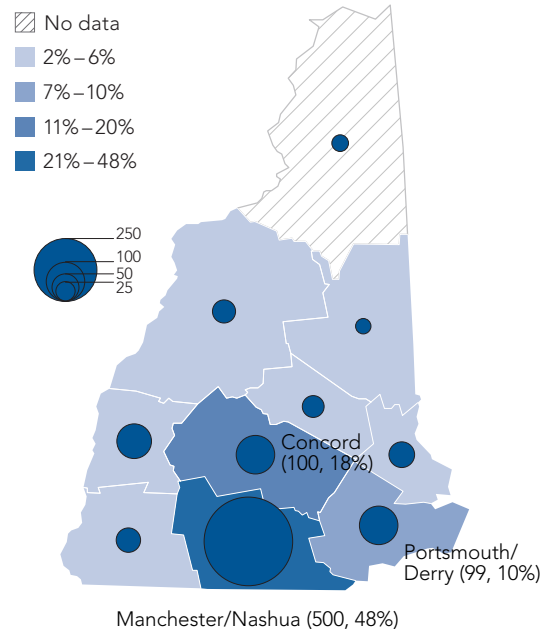
In the City of Manchester, homeless families receive shelter and supportive services from Families in Transition (FIT) and at-risk families obtain assistance through The Way Home. FIT, a non-profit organization, provides homeless families and individuals with emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing. FIT offers individualized wraparound supportive services for all family members, including intensive case management, individual and group therapy, and educational workshops. Nearly 90% of FIT graduates successfully move into permanent housing. In September 2009, FIT received a \$500,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that was matched by local funding partners to establish The Family Place. The new program serves homeless families facing multiple stressors, including past trauma, substance abuse disorders, or mental illness, to prevent long-term family disruption and separation.⁹

The Way Home, a non-profit organization, has provided over 15,000 families and individuals with affordable housing, life skills training, homelessness and foreclosure prevention assistance, and housing and budgeting counseling since 1988. This organization served 2,154 homeless or at-risk clients, including 849 children, in fiscal year 2010 and experienced an increased demand for homelessness and foreclosure prevention services driven largely by the economic downturn. Through \$312,348 in security deposit guarantees and homelessness prevention grants, The Way Home helped 310 households secure decent, affordable housing or prevent loss of housing. The organization also provided housing and budget counseling to 957 households and foreclosure prevention strategies to 104 households.¹⁰

Evaluating Services for New Hampshire's Homeless Children

During the 2008–09 school year, 2,130 students were homeless in New Hampshire. A 2010 survey by the New Hampshire Bureau of Homeless and Housing Services collected information on the quality and use of available services for homeless children. Seventy-four percent of surveyed families used child health services, with 100.0% of respondents finding the service helpful. Over eight out of ten (81.8%) of the 61.1% who accessed child education programs felt they benefitted from the service. In addition, 61.5% used child care services, with nearly all (93.8%) doing so with satisfaction. When those families were asked about daytime care for children, 40.6% typically had their child with them, while others placed them in child care (37.5%), in pre-school (12.5%), in Head Start (6.3%), or with a relative or friend (3.1%).¹¹

Number of Persons in Homeless Families and Percent Located in Each County Prior to Homelessness



Source: New Hampshire Bureau of Homeless and Housing Services, 2010 Point-in-Time Count; New Hampshire Bureau of Homeless and Housing Services, New Hampshire Homeless Access Survey, 2010.

Endnotes

- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD's 2009 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Homeless Populations and Subpopulations; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, AHAR Exchange Public Reports: 2009 Comprehensive Report of Sheltered Homeless Persons.
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2009 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations.
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD's 2009 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Housing Inventory Chart Report.
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2009 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations; U.S. Census Bureau, 2006–2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates.
- U.S. Census Bureau, 2006–2008 American Community Survey.
- Gordon Boddington (Outreach Worker, Tri-County Community Action Program), interview with ICPH, December 2010; Paul Martineau (Welfare Commissioner, Manchester Department of Welfare), interview with ICPH, December 2010; Maureen Ryan (Administrator, New Hampshire Bureau of Homeless and Housing Services), interview with ICPH, December 2010.
- Tauna Sisco and Bernie Bluhm, "Understanding Homelessness in a Recession: A Sociological Analysis of Needs/Access of New Hampshire Homeless Individuals 2009–10" (conference presentation, Fall Meeting of the New England Sociological Association, Durham, NH, November 6, 2010).
- Tauna Sisco and Bernie Bluhm, "Understanding Homelessness in a Recession," 2010; New Hampshire Bureau of Homeless and Housing Services, A Report by the Emergency Shelter and Homeless Coordination Commission, 2009; New Hampshire Bureau of Homeless and Housing Services, Homeless Update, August 2010.
- Families in Transition, <http://www.fitnh.org>
- Levi Kafka (Development Coordinator, The Way Home), interview with ICPH, November 2010; The Way Home, <http://www.thewayhomenh.org>
- U.S. Department of Education, Consolidated State Performance Report, 2008–09; New Hampshire Bureau of Homeless and Housing Services, New Hampshire Homeless Access Survey, 2010.